

this country needs to get loud on this one! Protect our 6 year olds! Protect all our children! We need gun control NOW.”—Geneva Bosak, Charlotte, NC

“Our elected officials will listen to only one thing—votes. Women have to vote for the candidates (at the state and national level) that commit to support legislation that meets our goals. For me this is an issue for which I’m willing to become a single-issue voter!”—Jennifer, Bethesda, MD

“Today the news of a young child killing another arrived at the same time as an appeal for money from the NRA! I can’t say which made me sicker. I will go to Denver and march there for safe, sane gun control! COMBINED our voices will mean something!”—Vanessa Woodford, Dillon, CO

“How many children must die before this country decides to take action?? I think it is in the hands of mothers to take up this cause and protect our children. Look at the changes that MADD was able to bring about! Let’s do the same with gun control!”—Karen, Simsbury, CT

“I thought for a long time about all the reasons that I’m involved in the MMM. But the one that resonates the loudest is GRATITUDE. My son and daughter both graduated from High School in 95’. And although I in no way believe that they are free from the dangers of gun violence, I am profoundly grateful that they survived that stage of their lives. I recently read a quote by Anne Morrow Lindbergh that says, “One can never pay in gratitude; one can only pay in kind somewhere else in life.” I moved to Littleton almost two years ago and this is my “somewhere else in life.”—Carmelita Garcia-Konrad, Littleton, CO

“Our children look to their parents for protection. What are we suppose to tell them when we can’t? Who are we suppose to go to for help? It is the job of EVERY citizen in this country and EVERY government official to make sure our children are safe. Stricter gun laws are only meant to do ONE thing....PROTECT OUR CHILDREN! I am asking the government to please step up to the plate and protect them...after all aren’t some of you parents too?”—Cindy Leberman, Bridgewater, NJ

“The message to congress is this—we want tight gun control, NOW, or you will be voted out of office. Vote with your bodies on Mothers’ Day, and inundate congress with letters, e-mails, and phone calls today. Tell them—change the laws or we’ll change the lawmakers.”—Kate Beysse, Arlington, VA

“We must make common sense gun policy a populist mandate. The cynical federal and state legislators would rather reach into the deep pockets than protect our children. We can make enough of a commotion that they cannot continue to flaunt our will. See you at the Million Mom March!”—Catherine J. Moynihan, McLean, VA

“It is 4 a.m. and my daughter had that terrifying dream again...the one about the man with the gun...he’d already shot you and Dad, Mom...and now he’s coming for me”. Was my daughter affected by Columbine? I was! Sydney and I will be there in DC to march on Mother’s Day. DAD too! PEACE.”—Victoria Dym, Pittsburgh, PA

“My daughter survived Columbine, but looking into the faces of the parents that night who had not found their children was the hardest thing I’ve ever done. Although guns were not the only equation, how can we not do what we can to prevent this from happening again? How can gun commerce be more important than the lives and safety of our children? How can we face them and not

say that we have done all we can to protect them?”—B. Adams, Littleton, CO

“I have been a midwife for 25 years and have been privileged to be at the births of over one thousand babies. I am outraged that these precious children can be shot in the streets of our country while members of Congress turn their backs on families, extend their hands to the gun lobby for money and espouse “family values.” Together we will finally end this violence.”—Marion McCartney, Washington, DC

“I think that this is really great! I am in full support of this. My nephew was killed by gun violence two years ago leaving behind a little brother and now its time for me to stand up and protect him and keep him safe. Not just him but all the children of the world! A change has to be made right NOW!”—Lisa Southern, Temple Hills, MD

“Come on ladies, put your money where your mouth is, and support this cause. Every Body counts in DC. Make the decision to get to there, no matter what it takes, instead of thinking about it.”—My kid’s Mom, Montclair, NJ

“My father was murdered outside his place of business last January. Everyday I look at my two-year-old son and wonder how someday I will try to explain to him the horror that stole away my innocence about gun violence forever. It’s time to raise our voices against this insanity. . . . NOW!”—Rabbi Joel Mosbacher, Atlanta, GA

“How many children have to die in this country before congress takes action? I sincerely believe that if the majority of this body of elected representatives were women that this problem would have been addressed long, long ago.”—Melanie Fernandez, Dunedin, FL

“On November 30th, 1999 the husband of my cousin Barbara shot and killed her and their 13-year-old daughter in cold blood, with a legally owned handgun. Enough is enough. No more deaths. Take the toys away from the boys.”—Nicole Whitman, Queens, NYC, NY

“A persons right to own a gun does not supercede a childs right to live.”—Gloria Michalski, Hammond, IN

“My 8 month old son has become my life’s inspiration. When he was born, my mother said to me “Los quieren tantos que ni quierens que el viento les pegue.” *Translation: You love them so much that you don’t even want the wind to hit them.*” She was right. On Mother’s Day 2000 I will march with my mother and my three sisters, along with our husbands and children to say to Congress “Ya Basta! Enough is enough!” There is no love like that of a mother, and our passion will be our “weapon” against intransigent purveyors of violence and destruction.”—Victoria R. Ballesteros, Los Angeles, CA

“This fight has been going on silently for far too long. The focus has gone away from childrens safety to politics. I am honored to be a part of the million mom march and do so because, as the mother of four children (ages 15 to 1) it is my responsibility to do everything within my power to ensure a safe future for them and their families. Millions of us will be unstoppable.”—Jacquie Cofer, Jupiter, FL

“I am petrified every day that my children leave our home to go to school because in Louisiana EVERYONE (but us, it seems) has guns and hunts. My older son tells me that all of the kids in his 6th grade class hunt with guns. I am not ok with that as a mom or as an American.

Responsible gun laws means waiting periods, limits on sale AND limits on the ages of those using them. NO CHILD SHOULD USE

A GUN. Any parent who says they want to teach correct use of guns to a child is asking for trouble and putting my child at risk. I am with MMM 100% as a woman, mom, social worker, and human being!”—Barbara Pierce, Natchitoches, LA

“A close friend of mine once found a little boy that had been accidentally shot in the head by a friends’ dads’ gun. To this day she will never in a million years forget what it felt like to have that little boy tug and pull at her shirt during his last few moments alive. Had there been a trigger-lock on that firearm his life could’ve been saved. . . . As well as so many others . . .”—Angelique, Imperial Beach, CA

“As a physician assistant, I have had ample opportunity to see just what a bullet, fired by a gun, does to human flesh. Believe me, it is thoroughly disgusting, wholly obscene, sinful. Now, relate that description to the body of a child. Lastly, think of your own child . . .

Do you still want to do nothing?”—Patricia Hoppen, Saugerties, NY

“At 16 years old I was shot while baby-sitting and suffered permanent damage to my wrist. Now that I have a one month old son I want to insure that he, or any other child, doesn’t suffer as I did.”—Carol, Alpharetta, GA

“We have been quiet for too long. I’m tired of watching the NRA dictate arms control. I think there are more of us than them, and we need to get more vocal about it.”—Stephanie, NY

“As a former ER nurse, never once did I see a robber shot by a home owner! All of the shootings were by people who knew each other.”—Ivy, PA

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 6, 1999, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

INTRODUCTION OF THE U.S. CAPITOL FIRE PROTECTION ACT OF 2000

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, as the Twenty-first century dawns, fire remains a serious threat to life and property, especially for the U.S. Capitol, House and Senate office buildings, the Library of Congress, and their occupants and visitors. Today, with the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. WELDON), co-chair of the Congressional Fire Caucus, and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. ANDREWS), I am introducing a bill intended to enhance fire protection of the United States Capitol complex and the safety of the thousands who work in or visit the complex every day.

No one can deny that the Architect of the Capitol, the official responsible for operation and maintenance of the complex, has taken steps to improve fire safety on Capitol Hill. However, recent reports warn that much work remains in order to make these buildings safe. A December 1998 report by the House Inspector General found the condition of House’s fire-protection systems, such as